
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

First Semester Examination
Academic Session 2007/2008

October/November 2007

HET 312 - DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

Duration: 3 hours

Please check that this examination paper consists of THREE pages of printed material before you begin the examination.

Answer FOUR questions.

1. Discuss the differences between

- [a] constatives and performatives
- [b] locutionary and illocutionary acts
- [c] Implicit and explicit performatives

[100 marks]

2. Explain, with examples, the terms 'situational context', 'schemata', 'frames' and 'scripts'. Discuss their importance in the interpretation of a piece of discourse.

[100 marks]

3. Discuss the differences between spoken and written discourse. Explain the advantages that speech has over written texts.

[100 marks]

4. Discuss, with examples, how speakers organise and negotiate turn takings in a conversation.

[100 marks]

5. Grice's (1975) Co-operative Principle explains how people cooperate in conversation when making their contribution. Explain in detail what this principle is. Then describe with examples how this principle can be manipulated to imply more than what is said.

[100 marks]

6. Explain what you mean by speech acts. Then discuss the various features of performative utterances as suggested by Searle.

[100 marks]

7. Analyse the following text using the “problem-solution” approach.

<p>Scarred and stretched</p> <p>WHAT is a scar?</p> <p>A scar is the body's natural way of healing and replacing lost or damaged skin. A scar is usually composed of fibrous tissue.</p> <p>Scars may be formed for many different reasons, including as a result of infections, surgery, injuries or inflammation of tissue.</p> <p>Scars may appear anywhere on the body, and the composition of a scar may vary – appearing flat, lumpy, sunken, coloured, painful or itchy.</p> <p>The final look of a scar depends on many factors, including the skin type and location on the body, the direction of the wound, the type of injury, age of the person with the scar and his/her nutritional status.</p> <p>What can the oil do?</p> <p>The oil helps to improve the appearance of new or old scars, whether from surgery, accidents, burns, insect bites, scratches or conditions such as acne or chickenpox.</p> <p>It also enjoys enormous support from physiotherapists (who are often involved in mobilising the joint), primarily due to its success in maintaining the elasticity of the scar tissue on joints and other high-mobility areas.</p>	<p>While the skin's connective tissue enables it to adapt to continuous movement of the body by expanding and contracting during periods of quick weight gain or loss, the skin itself has insufficient time to adjust.</p> <p>Why do stretch marks form?</p> <p>Striae, commonly known as stretch marks, are the lines that develop on the breasts and abdomen of pregnant women, on the shoulders and biceps of body builders, in adolescents undergoing their growth spurt, and in individuals who experience rapid changes in weight. They are caused by exactly what their name suggests – stretching.</p> <p>As the body expands faster than the skin covering it, the skin tears, forming an internal wound which heals and causes a scar to form.</p> <p>What can the oil do?</p> <p>It helps to prevent the appearance of stretch marks from pregnancy, teenage growth spurts or rapid weight gain or loss, as well as lessen the appearance of existing stretch marks.</p> <p>[Text taken from The Star, 18th August, 2007]</p>
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[100 marks]